

## Book Reviews

**BLOOD-PRESSURE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY. A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.** By EDWARD H. GOODMAN, M.D., associate in medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febiger, 1914.

Much has been written about hypertension during the past ten years—many theories advanced to explain it, varied symptoms described as resulting from it, and an extensive and divergent therapy offered to combat it.

This is a book of two hundred and twenty pages well illustrated with charts, tables, and diagrams. The first two chapters are given to a review of the physiology of blood-pressure and a description of the methods devised for determining venous and capillary pressure. There is a chapter on instruments and methods for estimating arterial blood pressure; no mention is made of the Pachon Oscillometer, the instrument most used in France. Another chapter is taken up with non-pathological variations of blood-pressure. Ten pages on hypertensive cardio-vascular disease and hypotension are well worth reading.

In speaking of blood-pressure in renal conditions the author refers to Widal's classification based on the function of the kidneys. The two syndromes *chlorurémie* and *azotémie* should not be translated chloruremia and azotouremia; the French words simply mean chlorides and nitrogen in the blood. The author might in mentioning Widal's classification have included the hypertension syndrome, for Widal holds that hypertension plays a most important rôle in the symptomatology of nephritis. There is a whole group of symptoms resulting from vascular crises—numbness of the fingers, cramps in the calves of the legs, palsies and convulsions—the author should at least have referred to these. The final chapter is a review of our present knowledge concerning the effect of drugs and other therapeutic measures on blood-pressure. This book though it does not treat the subject of blood-pressure with any depth, will be found helpful to students and general practitioners.